

ARIZONA CENTER FOR DISABILITY LAW

Objectives/Priorities for Services Fiscal Year 2010

Protection and Advocacy Program for Individuals with Mental Illness

The Protection and Advocacy Program for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) was established by Congress in 1986. PAIMI agencies, such as the Center are mandated to: protect and advocate for the rights of people with mental illness and investigate reports of abuse and neglect both in facilities that care for or treat individuals with mental illness and in the community. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services administers the PAIMI program.

OBJECTIVE #1: To reduce incidences of abuse, neglect and rights violations of PAIMI-eligible individuals residing in Level 1 facilities.

OBJECTIVE #2: To assist PAIMI-eligible individuals in asserting, enforcing and defending their rights to appropriate mental health care services.

OBJECTIVE #3: To assist PAIMI-eligible individuals in asserting, enforcing and defending their rights to special education, employment and housing.

OBJECTIVE #4: Support and promote the PAIMI Advisory Council

Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities – PADD

The Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) program was created by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 1975. The Arizona Center for Disability Law (Center) is required by the Act to pursue legal, administrative and other appropriate remedies to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities under federal and state laws. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration Developmental Disabilities administers the PADD program.

OBJECTIVE #1: Reduce the incidence of abuse and neglect of individuals with developmental disabilities by improving the quality of investigations of abuse and neglect conducted by the Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

OBJECTIVE #2: Ensure access to comprehensive and appropriate health care services for individuals with developmental disabilities who are beneficiaries of Medicaid and/or Medicare.

OBJECTIVE #3: Improve access to appropriate and high quality special education services for students with developmental disabilities.

OBJECTIVE #4: Promote equal opportunity to employment, public accommodations and housing.

OBJECTIVE #5: Collaboration with the ADD Network.

Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights - PAIR

The Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR) program was established by Congress as a national program under the Rehabilitation Act of 1993. PAIR programs were established to protect and advocate for the legal and human rights of persons with disabilities not served by the Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) or the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) programs. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Rehabilitation Services Administration administers the PAIR program.

OBJECTIVE #1: Increase access by persons with disabilities to services, programs, and facilities open to the public.

OBJECTIVE #2: Ensure comprehensive and medically necessary health care services for individuals with disabilities who are beneficiaries of Medicaid and/or Medicare.

OBJECTIVE #3: To reduce the discriminatory barriers which prevent qualified people with disabilities from maintaining employment, obtaining reasonable accommodations and working in a workplace free of unlawful harassment, retaliation and intimidation.

OBJECTIVE #4: Promote equal opportunity to housing under the fair housing act for people with disabilities. Bring about this awareness through trainings, dissemination of rights information and technical assistance.

Other Federal Grant Programs

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

CAP is authorized through the 1984 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Center's CAP program ensures that Arizona's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) system works for individuals with disabilities. CAP services include information and referral services, advice and representation at appeals to assist more individuals with disabilities negotiate changing employment and training systems through VR or other Rehabilitative Services Administration programs.

Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)

PAAT was reauthorized as part of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. The Center's PAAT work ensures that children and adults with disabilities can get access to critically needed assistive technology in a variety of settings – school, home and at work. Our work focuses on information and referral services, technical assistance, short-term assistance and representation at appeals to ensure children and adults with disabilities live more productive and independent lives.

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

PABSS was created through the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. The focus of our work is to protect beneficiaries' rights to obtain, maintain or retain employment. The program can only service beneficiaries of Social Security who are individuals with disabilities. The Center's PABSS program provides information and referral, education and training, and individual representation and assistance.

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)

PATBI was created by Congress as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. The Center's PATBI work ensures that persons with TBI and their family members have better access to information on their rights to services through a comprehensive, statewide outreach and training program. The Center also advocates on an individual and systemic level to affect policy changes in systems providing care and services for people with TBI.

Protection and Advocacy for Voting Assistance (PAVA)

PAVA was created in 2002 when Congress passed the Help America Vote Act. The Center's PAVA work focuses on improving the accessibility of polling places to people with disabilities; increasing voter registration and voter participation among people with disabilities; and ensuring that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to vote privately and independently.